acceptable prices, contribute increasingly to the provision of sustainable employment and the economic growth and compete with confidence for an increasing share of the global market.

Waiving off the loans of weavers

†3314. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had started the weavers loan relief scheme in the year 1990 with a view to waiving off the loans to the tune of Rs. 10,000/- outstanding upto 1989 to be implemented by the State Cooperative Banks;

(b) whether the loans of the weavers belonging to all the cooperative weavers committees have been waived off by the Magadh Central Cooperative Bank in Jehanabad but loans of the weavers of Gaya district have not waived off till date;

(c) whether some MPs and the Weavers Association of Gaya have drawn the Government's attention towards this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Government of India had formulated a scheme known as "Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme 1990" (ARDRS) which was in force during the period from 15th May, 1990 to 31st March, 1991. Under the Scheme, the non-wilful defaults of Farmers, Land-less Labourers, Artisans and Weavers in rural areas to Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks in respect of loans up to Rs. 10,000/- from these banks on or after 1st April, 1986, and instalments of term loans falling due after 2nd October, 1986 which were over due to banks as on the effective date of 2nd October, 1989 including overdue interest were written off. The liability was borne by Government of India. In the case of Cooperative Banks, a similar scheme was formulated by the State Governments on the lines of Government of India Scheme. The liabilities arising out of the State Scheme were shared by Government of India and the concerned State Governments in equal proportion. In the case of weavers' societies where wages and/or yarn had been provided as advance to the members such wages were considered as loans under the scheme and were eligible for relief under the scheme provided those satisfied the criteria for eligibility.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) All the claims received as per the guidelines of the scheme and within the stipulated time limit were cleared by the Magadh District Cooperative Bank (DCCB). Such claims amounted to Rs. 17.05 lakh covering 21 Weavers' Cooperative Societies and 1875 weavers in Gaya District and 15 Weavers' Cooperative Societies in Jehanabad District. However, the claims of Manpur Block of Gaya District were not considered, as the same were not submitted in time.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme to waive the loans up to Rs. 10,000/- was under implementation for a particular period. The scheme has been discontinued since then. It is, therefore, not possible to waive at present any loan liability.

Closed NTC Mills

3315. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:—

(a) whether most of the NTC mills are lying closed and the workers are being paid wages without work of the New Textile Policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor inspite of mill-wise;

(c) the production in each of these mills *vis-a-vis* expenditure incurred during each of the last three years, when they were operating; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to re-open these mills till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) There is no production activity in 42 mills of NTC (even prior to New Textile Policy) as the operations in these mills were sustaining heavy losses. The workers of these mills are however being paid wages.

(b) and (c) The list of mills with no production activity alongwith the contribution generated and expenditure incurred during the last three years is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(d) Efforts were made to run these mills on job work basis but there was no demand. TRAs conducted Techno Economic Viability Studies for these mills and established that 39 of these mills are not viable. Based on these reports, Operating Agencies of BIFR (IDBI/IFCI) proposed that these 39 mills should be closed as a part of the Rehabilitation Schemes. BIFR has